GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3658
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Per-capita Agricultural Land
Patel Shri Subhash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per-capita availability of cultivable land in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether per capita availability of cultivable land in the country is declining and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether farmers possess only 60 per cent of agricultural land even today and 90 per cent of farmers possess only 38 per cent of the total agricultural land at present due to which there is a huge shortage of per capita cultivable land in the country; and

(d) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to tackle the said situation and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (d): As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to check diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, under the National Policy for Farmers − 2007 (NPF -2007), State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities. National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy − 2007 (NRRP-2007) has also recommended that as far as possible, projects may be set up on waste land, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas. The IWMP has been converted to the Watershed Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from the financial year 2015-16.

Contdâ€¦2/-

The state/UT-wise per capita availability of cultivable land is not compiled and maintained separately. However, as per Agriculture Census 2010-11(latest available) the state/UT-wise average size of operational holding in the country is at Annexure.

As per various Quinquennial Agriculture Censuses conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1970-71, 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985-86, 1990-91, 1995-96, 2000-01, 2005-06 and 2010-11, the average size of operational holdings in the country was 2.28, 2.00,1.84,1.69, 1.55, 1.41, 1.33. 1.23 and 1.15 hectares respectively, which shows that the average size of the operational holding declined by about 50% in 2010-11 over 1970-71. The decline in average size of operational holding has been attributed to fragmentation of Land holding due to excess pressure on land, conversion of land for urbanization/industrialization or transfer of land to meet the requirement of non-agricultural purposes etc.

Further as per Agriculture Census 2010-11(latest available), the number of operational holders (Marginal and Small) in the country is 85 percent with the coverage of 44.6 percent of area under operational holding.